(c) KSY Provides a basket of programmatic options to the States/UTs, to selectively intervene on area specific needs/requirements of adolescent girls such as improvement of nutritional and health status of adolescent girls, promotion of awareness in health, hygiene nutrition and family care, learning life skills, helping them gain a better understanding of their social environment. It also includes strengthening of training component particularly in vocational aspects aimed at empowerment of adolescent girls.

(d) To assess the performance of the scheme, the Ministry has entrusted the task of evaluation of KSY to National Institute of Medical Statistics ICMR, New Delhi. The Study is likely to be completed soon.

Anomalies in adoption of children

1473. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite India being a secular country, we have different yardsticks for different religions as far as adoption of children is concerned, in as much as hindus can adopt a child under Hindu Adoption Act; Christians, Muslims and others can only be given guardianship and not be called parents under the present law; and

(b) what steps Government is considering to remove these anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 there is no restriction in adoption on account of sex or religion of the child or prospective adoptive parents.

Amendments to dowry laws

†1474. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many complaints with regard to use of dowry laws for seeking revenge;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many innocent persons are punished as a result thereof, while culprits get scot free;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to make amendments in the provisions of the dowry law, to prevent its misuse and for punishing the culprits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, for the period 2004-2006, out of the 11300 cases registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, 615 were declared false on account of mistake of fact or law.

(c) Penal provisions already exist in the Dowry Prohibtion Act, 1961 in respect of offences under the Act. Government has no proposal to amend the Act in order to prevent its alleged misuse.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi